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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0288
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 3393
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1211
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1078
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 1647
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0730
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1390
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 2231
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000238

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PREL PHUM TX
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: MORE THAN 1200 PARDONED FOR FLAG DAY

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

¶2. (SBU) The government published the list of prisoners to
be freed under a pardon that President Berdimuhamedov
announced on February 13. He said that 1,269 prisoners would
be released in honor of Flag Day, which is February 19.
Today's "Neytralniy Turkmenistan" listed 1,254 names.
Preliminary examination of the list revealed that of 1,254
names, only 217 were sentenced to prison before 2007,
suggesting that the vast majority of those being pardoned
were those convicted of ordinary crimes. So far, post did
not find any names of those arrested in connection with the
2002 attempt on President Niyazov's life, nor were the names
of two journalists detained with Ogulsapar Muradova in late
2006 on the list. Additionally, no names were found, to
date, that were associated with individual human rights cases
with which post is familiar.

¶3. (U) Post will continue to confer with international NGOs
and examine the list in greater detail.
HOAGLAND